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SUBJECT: 59TH UNGA -- ARMENIA'S MOSTLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE
TO USG INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 152009

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive But Unclassified. Please treat accordingly.

SUMMARY

[1](#)2. (SBU) We delivered reftel demarche on USG initiatives at the 59th UNGA to MFA International Organizations Acting Division Chief Artak Apitonian July 20. Apitonian predicted that the GOAM would support the majority of the USG initiatives, and was upbeat regarding potential cooperation on economic issues and a possible anti-trafficking resolution. He said, however, that the USG should not expect a shift in the GOAM's approach toward UNGA Middle East resolutions this year. End Summary.

ADVANCING ECONOMIC FREEDOM

[1](#)3. (SBU) Apitonian said the GOAM was mostly in agreement with the USG's approach to economic issues at UNGA. He said that the GOAM looked to the UN to encourage countries to focus their domestic policies on the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of 2002. He said that the GOAM shares the same vision regarding good governance and economic development in the country. He cited Armenia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the recent discussions of the U.S.-Armenia Task Force on Economic Cooperation (USATF) and the country's eligibility for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) funding as evidence of the GOAM's commitment to the principles of the Monterrey Consensus and USG economic policy initiatives. Apitonian hinted that FM Vartan Oskanian's address to the UNGA this year would focus on these themes. He also suggested that Armenia's Ambassador to the UN, Armen Martirosian, was more engaged than his predecessors on economic issues and said the USG might find him a more eager partner on economic policies.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

[1](#)4. (SBU) Apitonian said that Armenia would be supportive of resolutions addressing the issue of trafficking of persons at UNGA. He indicated that the GOAM was anxious to portray itself as an ally in the fight against trafficking in persons in the UN and other international arenas as part of its ongoing work with the USG on the issue. Apitonian noted that Armenia defines a minor as anyone under the age of 18. He said that Armenia's ambition to join the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and would enhance its international efforts in trafficking in persons and hinted that the GOAM would approach the USG for its support in [1](#)2005.

PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

[1](#)5. (SBU) Apitonian echoed earlier positive comments about USG initiatives at the UN to promote democracy and governance. He said the GOAM was anxious to continue its current role with respect to the Democracy Caucus and said the GOAM viewed itself as a model among its regional neighbors in this regard.

BAN ON HUMAN CLONING

[1](#)6. (SBU) Apitonian noted the GOAM's confusion as to when the topic of human cloning might be discussed at UNGA. He said that, despite conflicting information from some governments, the GOAM was operating under the assumption that it would be part of the 60th UNGA and not included in discussions this

year. He was well aware of the Costa Rican resolution and, while non-committal, suggested that Armenia's Mission in New York had not appeared enthusiastic about lending its support.

MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS

17. (SBU) Apitonian reviewed Armenia's voting record on Middle East resolutions during last year's UNGA and predicted that the GOAM would not go far beyond this position during the 59th UNGA. While still too early to make a commitment either way, he said that an abstention from the GOAM was likely in most of these cases raised in the demarche. He noted, however, that there was increasing caution within the MFA about the GOAM's position on any resolution (at UNGA, the OSCE or within other international fora) regarding the situation in the Middle East that might be interpreted as applicable to the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

ARMENIAN INITIATIVES

18. (SBU) Apitonian said the GOAM was still hopeful in its efforts at the UN regarding "2005 as the Year of Prevention of Genocide and War Crimes." He said that a joint initiative among CIS countries in commemoration of World War II could change the focus of the GOAM's efforts. GOAM bureaucrats in New York and Yerevan are examining possibilities for combining the issues, Apitonian noted.

19. (U) Embassy POC is Political/Economic Officer Aaron Sherinian (SherinianAH@state.gov).
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